

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 111858Z AUG 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3147  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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PASS TO DOE

E.O.11652:XGDS-3  
TAGS: PARM US UK UR  
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION OF US ILLUSTRATIVE  
TEXT OF SEPARATE AGREEMENT ARTICLE ON NSS, AUGUST 11, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO. 295

1. SUMMARY: AT THE AUGUST 11 MEETING OF THE NSS WORKING  
GROUP, TARASOV (USSR) AND FAKLEY (UK) OFFERED COMMENTS  
AND RAISED QUESTIONS REGARDING PARAGRAPHS 1 - 3 OF THE  
AUGUST 8 US ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF ARTICLE I OF THE SEPARATE  
VERIFICATION AGREEMENT, ON NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS (NSS).  
(SEE CTB 291.) THE SOVIET AND UK DELS DESCRIBED THE US  
ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT AS A CONSTRUCTIVE STEP TOWARD BRINGING  
CLOSER TOGETHER EARLIER US AND SOVIET DRAFTS. IN  
RESPONSE TO SOVIET QUESTIONS, FINCH (US) EXPLAINED IN  
DETAIL OUR CONCEPT OF TWO PHASES IN THE OPERATION OF EACH  
INDIVIDUAL NSS, AND OUR PROPOSED TARGET DATES FOR  
INSTALLING IMPROVED SEISMIC EQUIPMENT. THE DELEGATIONS  
DISCUSSED THE TIMING OF THE INITIATION OF THE FIRST PHASE

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OF THE SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE  
ISDE. END SUMMARY.

2. FINCH (US) OPENED THE AUGUST 11 MEETING OF THE NSS  
WORKING GROUP BY REQUESTING COMMENTS FROM THE UK AND  
SOVIET DELS ON THE ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF ARTICLE I OF THE  
SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT, DISTRIBUTED BY THE US DEL

ON AUGUST 8. FAKLEY (UK) SAID THE TEXT WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTEMPT TO BRING CLOSER TOGETHER THE EARLIER US AND SOVIET DRAFTS. TARASOV (USSR) AGREED THAT THE US ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE STEP, BUT HE HAD SOME QUESTIONS. FIRST, HE WONDERED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE DRAFT ARTICLE TO THE TECHNICAL ANNEX, WHICH WAS REFERRED TO IN THE DRAFT ARTICLE BUT NOT DISTRIBUTED WITH IT. FINCH EXPLAINED THAT THE US DEL RECOGNIZED THE REQUIREMENT TO REVISE SOME PORTIONS OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF THE BASIC ARTICLE. THE US DEL MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER REVISED LANGUAGE FOR SOME PORTIONS OF THE ANNEX AT THE NEXT NSS WORKING GROUP MEETING.

3. TARASOV ASKED WHETHER THE STATION LOCATIONS REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE AUGUST 8 DRAFT REFERRED TO GENERAL LOCATIONS, AS IN THE EARLIER US AND SOVIET DRAFTS, OR TO PRECISE STATION LOCATIONS. FINCH EXPLAINED THAT THE LOCATIONS REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE ARTICLE WERE GENERAL AREAS FOR LOCATING THE STATIONS. IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO CHANGE THE MEANING OF GENERAL STATION LOCATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN OUR EARLIER DRAFT. THIS WOULD BECOME CLEAR WHEN WE OFFERED REVISED LANGUAGE FOR PARA 1 OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARA 3 FOR PHASING  
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IN IMPROVED SEISMIC EQUIPMENT, TARASOV ASKED WHERE THE TARGET DATES WOULD BE INDICATED AND WHAT THE ROLE OF THE JCC WOULD BE. FINCH DESCRIBED THE US CONCEPT OF CONSIDERING THE PHASES TO BE RELATED TO EACH INDIVIDUAL STATION, WITH IMPROVED EQUIPMENT OF AGREED CHARACTERISTICS TO BE INSTALLED AS IT BECAME AVAILABLE. THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD BE INSTALLED AT ALL STATIONS WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE. HE INDICATED THAT OUR REVISED ANNEX LANGUAGE WOULD INCLUDE THE TARGET DATE OF TWO YEARS, AND THAT THE JCC WOULD HAVE THE TASK OF WORKING OUT THE PRECISE DATES FOR INSTALLING IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AT EACH STATION, CONSISTENT WITH THIS TARGET DATE. TARASOV SAID THE US CONCEPT FOR TWO PHASES AT EACH INDIVIDUAL STATION WAS INTERESTING AND THE SOVIET DEL WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TIME TO CONSIDER IT.

5. TARASOV THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE EXCHANGE OF FIRST-PHASE NSS SEISMIC DATA WOULD BEGIN. HE NOTED THAT IN OUR MAY 8 DRAFT TEXT WE HAD PROPOSED THAT THE EXCHANGE OF SEISMIC DATA BEGIN 12 MONTHS AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE, WHILE OUR AUGUST 8 DRAFT INDICATED THAT PHASE ONE OF THE DATA EXCHANGE WOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ENTRY

INTO FORCE. FINCH EXPLAINED THAT THE NSS DATA EXCHANGE PROPOSAL IN OUR MAY 8 DRAFT CORRESPONDED TO THE SECOND PHASE OF NSS IN OUR DRAFT OF AUGUST 8. WE STILL SAW THE EXCHANGE OF DATA FROM THE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT (I.E., SECOND-PHASE NSS DATA) BEGINNING A YEAR OR SO AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE, BUT WE SAW NO REASON WHY THE EXCHANGE OF FIRST-PHASE NSS DATA SHOULD NOT BEGIN AT OR NEAR THE TIME OF ENTRY INTO FORCE. FINCH NOTED THAT FIRST-PHASE DATA WOULD BE COMING FROM EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS ALREADY

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OPERATIONAL AT THE TIME OF ENTRY INTO FORCE, AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE (ISDE) PROCEDURES (IF NOT THE ISDE MECHANISM) SHOULD HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THAT TIME. AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, THE SOVIET DEL PROPOSED TO FOLLOW THE ISDE PROCEDURES AND TO BEGIN THE EXCHANGE OF PHASE ONE NSS DATA WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ISDE MECHANISM. TARASOV REITERATED THE VIEW THAT SOME TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE JCC TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES AND THEREFORE THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NSS DATA EXCHANGE COULD NOT BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ENTRY INTO FORCE. HE THOUGHT THIS SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM SINCE THERE WOULD BE LESS NEED FOR IMPROVED VERIFICATION DURING THIS PERIOD. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE THREE DELEGATIONS WOULD CONSIDER THIS QUESTION FURTHER AND RETURN TO IT AT A FUTURE MEETING.  
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